



NCDFR FIRE ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP (NCDFR-FEWG) & Strategic Partners

The purpose of this group is to provide oversight and guidance for multiple Division Programs. For example, fire danger rating systems have been in use for 67 years. Despite widespread use there is still the need to continually reaffirm the underlying principles of the national system and to develop a line of local experts (“NFDRS guru’s”) to promote its proper use, application, and interpretation. The formation of this Working Group represents the Division’s first step towards the recognition of the value of NFDRS. It also recognizes the long-term commitment to provide the fertile ground for the development and nurturing of local Division experts. It is these experts who by using state of the art software can transfer fire danger information that can satisfy field user needs by providing better operational interpretation of the indexes. For the FD program’s success the WG’s organization strength needs to be developed at the District Offices with Regional and Statewide Managers serving as mentors. The Group’s role has expanded to address the Fire Environment. These include but are not limited to Prescribed Fire, Fire Weather, Smoke Management, Fire Behavior, Fire Effects, Fire Use, Fire Research & Training. This is why the Fire Danger Working Group needs to evolve into the Fire Environment Working Group.

Key positions of the NCDFR FEWG include but are not limited to the following:

1. **Statewide Manager**
2. **Regional Managers**
3. **District Managers**
4. **RAWS Maintenance Technicians**
5. **Technical Specialists**
6. **Strategic Partners**

Training Curriculum for State & Regional Mgrs & selected items for District & other positions

1. A Manager’s Guide to the NFDRS
2. NFDRS Preparatory Course
3. Gaining A Basic Understanding of the NFDRS
4. Weather Information Management System (WIMS)
5. S-491 Intermediate NFDRS
6. NARTC National Training NFDRS
7. Wildland Fire Assessment System (WFAS)
8. Certified Tower Climbing School
9. Certified Burn Boss
10. NCDFR Smoke Management Program
11. RAWS 1st Responders
12. ASCADS
13. CMMS
14. Use of GIS application for the FE
15. V Smoke RX 410
16. Fire Behavior 290, 390, 490, & 590

Major Duties of Positions:

Statewide Manager

- Provide oversight & guidance to the Regions and Districts concerning all Fire Environment Programs Program.
- Make sure NFDRS use and application is correct and consistent to facilitate a quality and meaningful program.
- Provide a seamless communication flow with Regions & Districts Managers and RAWS Technicians through the development of the Division Fire Danger Technical Notes.
- Serve as a Central Office focal point for FE issues and with the FEWG provide a forum to discuss and develop recommendations.
- Conduct at least two or three FEWG meetings or more often as needed, to identify & prioritize issues, and outline & implement solutions.
- Organize & Assist in the formation of Task Forces to address FEWG issues
- Plan for Life Cycle Management on all FEWG systems comprised of time limited components.
- Serve as the NCDFR FE contact for interagency issues.
- Perform required national & interagency responsibilities to coordinate a quality FE program:
 - ❖ USFS National RAWS Program Mgr.
 - ❖ BLM National Remote Sensing Support Unit
 - ❖ BLM National RAWS web site
 - ❖ BLM National ASCADS Reports
 - ❖ WIMS National Support Group



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- ❖ WRCC National FD RAWS Archived Climate Database
- ❖ NWCG FEWT representative
- ❖ SHRMC governing board
- Serve as cadre member for NFDRS training (State, Region 8 & National)
- Receive and manage assignments for FEWT from the NCDFR Management Team
- Prepare annual budget requirements including special project requests (WIMS, RAWS, & special projects, etc..)
- Perform periodically RAWS site inspections working with the Regional & District Coordinators.

Regional Manager

- Provide oversight & guidance to the Districts concerning the FE
- Promote consistent application & use of NFDRS, Fire Weather, Smoke Management & RAWS Standards within the respective region
- Provide oversight & technical expertise on Fire Danger RAWS Maintenance.
- Perform periodic inspections of RAWS sites planning with the Statewide Manager.
- Facilitate FE technology transfers to the field units
- Identify training requirements for the Region and Districts.
- Conduct workshops to improve the understanding and confidence of NFDRS, RAWS application & Smoke Management
- Review compatibility and synchronization of interagency FE Programs within the Region.
- Responsible for the tracking for all on going projects and the development and implementation of FEWG action items.
- Provides follow-up on assigned projects to ensure timely completion
- Documents & publishes all FEWG meetings (statewide and regional)
- Maintains a permanent file on all regional activities implemented within the respective Districts

District Manager

- Provide oversight & guidance to the District concerning the FE Programs.
- Advance & transfer the FEWG recommendations and informational materials to the District & Counties
- Edit FDR weather inputs in WIMS prior to 1400 hrs EST and 1500 hrs DST
- Facilitate & assist RAWS Tech with NFDRS RAWS repairs within 3 days & keep down time within 3 to 7 days or as by Readiness Plan
- Implement corrective action for Goes transmitter drift immediately. Adhere to the three-day rule.
- Schedule & coordinate with RAWS Tech. annual station maintenance and sensor change out
- Provide oversight on ASCADS record keeping
- Solicit issues or agenda items for the FEWT
- Attend all Regional & Statewide FEWT meetings
- Provide issue write-ups or briefings three weeks in advance of meetings
- Report / communicate FE developments to the Counties and local cooperators
- Determine, facilitate & conduct FE Training Needs
- Serve as cadre member for FE training
- Assess & determine adjustments to the Firefighter's Fire Danger Card



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RAWS Maintenance Technicians

- Responsible for the Fire Danger RAWS preventative maintenance & annual sensor change-out
- Initiates corrective action immediately when GOES transmitter drift exceed the standard limits
- Keeps ASCADS records up to date
- Participates in FEWG meetings when appropriate

Technical Specialists & Strategic Partners

- Participate at FEWT meetings to help shape the dynamic direction for FE programs & the recommended course action to better manage & protect NC's natural resources
- Assemble data, information or provide assistance to FEWG as needed or as volunteered
- Work on FEWG task force assignments as requested